Curecanti

National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

CAMPING

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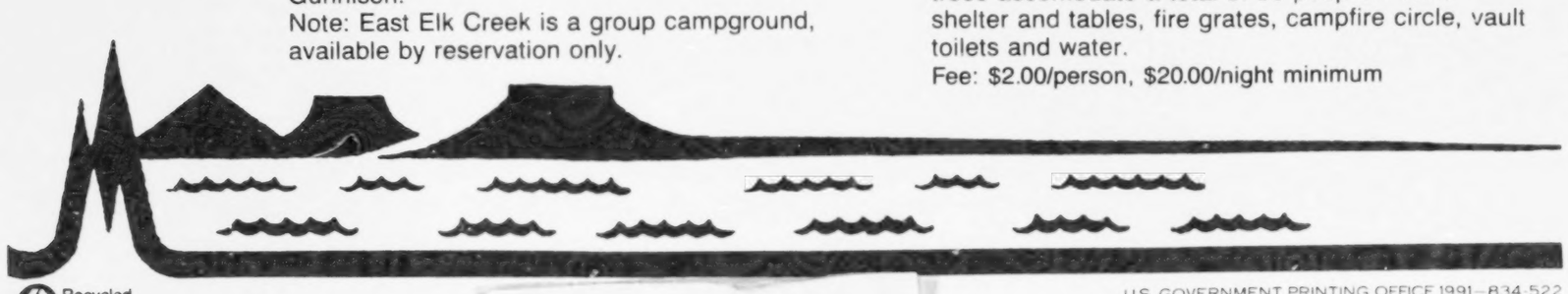
Curecanti offers a variety of drive-in, boat-in, and hike-in campgrounds. Facilities range from Elk Creek Campground with showers, marina, restaurant, amphitheater and visitor center, to the remote West Elk Creek Boat-in Campsite located in an historic setting on the secluded West Elk Arm of Blue Mesa Lake.

Major Facilities

	ELK CREEK	LAKE FORK	STEVENS CREEK	CIMARRON
Location	16 miles West of Gunnison	27 miles West of Gunnison	12 miles West of Gunnison	20 miles East of Montrose
Elevation	7540	7580	7540	6906
Number of Sites	179	87	54	22
Fee/Night	$8.00	$8.00	$7.00	$8.00
Water	yes	yes	yes	yes
Flush Toilets	yes	yes	no	yes
Vault Toilets	yes	yes	yes	yes
Handicapped Access	yes	yes	yes	yes
Campfire Programs	yes	yes	yes	yes
Visitor Center	yes	yes	no	yes
Boat Launch Ramp	yes	yes	small boats	no
Marina	yes	yes	no	no
Restaurant	yes	no	no	no
Picnic Tables	yes	yes	yes	yes
Fire Grates/Grills	yes	yes	yes	yes
Electric Hookups	no	no	no	no
RV Dump Station	yes	yes	no	yes
Gray Water Disposal	yes	yes	yes	yes
Pull-thru Sites	15	16	none	5
Walk-in Sites	16	5	none	none
Showers	yes	yes	no	no
Laundry	no	no	no	no

Limited Facilities

	LOCATION/ACCESS	FACILITIES
Dry Gulch	Just north of U.S. Highway 50, 17 miles west of Gunnison.	Ten sites among large cottonwood trees. Picnic tables, fire grates, vault toilets and water. Fee: $7.00/night
Red Creek	Just north of U.S. Highway 50, 19 miles west of Gunnison.	Seven sites among large cottonwood trees. Picnic tables, fire grates, vault toilets and water. Fee: $7.00/night
Gateview	Extreme south end of the Lake Fork arm of Blue Mesa Lake. Access via Colorado Highway 149, 7 miles west of Powderhorn. Proceed north 6 miles on an improved narrow gravel road.	Seven sites located in a deep, narrow canyon. Picnic tables, fire grates, vault toilets and water. Fee: none
Ponderosa	Northwest end of the Soap Creek Arm of Blue Mesa Lake. Access via Colorado Highway 92, ½ mile west of Blue Mesa Dam. Proceed north 7 miles on the Soap Creek gravel road. Note: The first 7 miles of the Soap Creek road are accessible to trailers and recreational vehicles during dry conditions. Rain can make the road very muddy and hazardous.	Five walk-in sites and 16 drive-in sites are located among scattered pine trees. Picnic tables, fire grates, vault toilets, water, boat ramp and horse corral. Fee: $7.00/night
East Portal	Two miles below Crystal Dam at the bottom of the Black Canyon. Access via Route 347, 6 miles north of junction with U.S. Highway 50. Proceed 5 miles down East Portal Road. Note: Trailers, buses and recreational vehicles are not permitted on the East Portal Road because of the steep grade and sharp, narrow curves.	Fifteen sites are shaded by box elder trees. Campground is located near the historic Gunnison River Diversion Tunnel. Picnic tables, fire grates, vault toilets, water and visitor contact station. Fee: $7.00/night
East Elk Creek	Just north of U.S. Highway 50, 16½ miles west of Gunnison. Note: East Elk Creek is a group campground, available by reservation only.	Two group sites located under large cottonwood trees accomodate a total of 50 people. Picnic shelter and tables, fire grates, campfire circle, vault toilets and water. Fee: $2.00/person, $20.00/night minimum



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General Information

Backcountry and Boat-In Camping	Several sites are located on Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Lakes. No reservations or permits are required. Information is available at Elk Creek, Lake Fork and Cimarron Visitor Centers during the summer months. "Boat-In Camping" and "Walks and Trails" handouts provide additional information.
Reservations	Camping is permitted in designated campgrounds on a first-come, first-serve basis. Curecanti has no campsite reservation system except for organized group camping. Campgrounds may fill to capacity on holidays and weekends. Try to arrive by 10:00 a.m. to assure yourself of a site.
Fees and Water	Fees are collected from late May through September. Water is usually available from late May through mid-September in the campgrounds. Drinking water during other times of the year can be obtained at the Elk Creek Picnic Area. Campgrounds remain open until closed by snow or freezing temperatures. Generally, sites are accessible at Elk Creek year-round and at Lake Fork and Cimarron from mid-April through mid-November.
Limit Of Stay	14 days in all facilities. Individual/party must vacate the facility for 5 days between the 14 day stay limit.
Terrain and Weather	Elk Creek, Lake Fork and Stevens Creek Campgrounds are located close to Blue Mesa Lake in treeless, sagebrush, mesa country. The Cimarron Campground on the banks of Cimarron Creek, is more sheltered. Campgrounds with trees include Dry Gulch, Red Creek, Gateview, Ponderosa, East Portal and East Elk Creek Group Campground. Summer days at Curecanti are warm and dry, but strong afternoon winds blowing off the lake can make temperatures feel cool. Winds quiet toward evening.
Firewood	Driftwood may be collected and used as a fuel source. No other firewood gathering is permitted. Standing timber, alive or dead, may not be cut or used as fuel.
Interpretive Services	Campfire programs, Morrow Point Lake Boat Tours and other ranger conducted activities are scheduled throughout the summer months. Information can be obtained from campground bulletin boards and at the visitor centers. Tune to radio station 1610 at the park for traveler information.
Groceries	Small privately owned stores with limited selection are located within 2 miles of each major campground. Complete services can be found in Gunnison and Montrose.
Attention	A complete list of campground rules and regulations is posted at each campground and is available at the Elk Creek, Lake Fork, and Cimarron Visitor Centers.
Information and Group Reservations	Superintendent, Curecanti National Recreation Area, 102 Elk Creek, Gunnison, CO 81230; phone (303) 641-2337.